

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

**Claims 1-9 (Canceled)**

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended):** A device for holding at least two oblong articles in an essentially parallel arrangement, the device comprising:

a receiving part having an open side for the introduction of the articles and a closed side which encloses a receiving space for receiving the articles, the receiving part having an abutment section on which the first article introduced into the receiving part engages;

spring elements connected with the receiving part for fixing the articles in the receiving space, one of the spring elements being configured as a locking tongue moveable transversely to the longitudinal direction of the receiving part between a rest position and a deflected position, the locking tongue comprising

a free end having a bent receiving section for receiving the first article, the bent receiving section being aligned with the abutment section when the locking tongue is in the rest position; and

an articulating element between the receiving section and the open side of the receiving part, the articulating element protruding into

the receiving space when the locking flange tongue is in the rest position;

wherein introduction of the first article into the receiving portion displaces the free end of the locking tongue into the deflected position when the articulating element contacts the first article;

wherein further introduction of the article into the receiving portion causes the first article to rest on the abutment section, the receiving section engaging the first article such that the locking tongue returns to, and becomes locked in, the rest position, the articulating element being arranged between two areas of the receiving space that each receive one of the articles.

**Claim 11 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 10 wherein the side of the receiving section facing the first article is configured in accordance with the abutment section.

**Claim 12 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 10 wherein the articulating element exhibits a front section and a back section that come together in a break region that projects into the receiving space.

**Claim 13 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 10 further comprising at least one additional spring element that lies opposite the articulating element.

**Claim 14 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 13, wherein each spring element that lies opposite the articulating element is configured as a counter-tongue with a projection that lies opposite the most raised region of the articulating element.

**Claim 15 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 14 wherein each projection is formed by a front section and a back section which come together in a break region that projects into the receiving space.

**Claim 16 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 11 wherein the articulating element exhibits a front section and a back section that come together in a break region that projects into the receiving space.

**Claim 17 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 11 further comprising at least one additional spring element that lies opposite the articulating element.

**Claim 18 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 12 further comprising at least one additional spring element that lies opposite the articulating element.

**Claim 19 (Previously Presented):** Device according to claim 10 wherein the articulating element, when locked in the rest position, prevents the second article from contacting the first article.